



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

UNDERGROUND SHOT FIRER

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20 (VR 480-04-2), which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: *Underground Shot Firer* *

This certification authorizes the holder to perform blasting operations, pre-blasting and post-blasting examinations, and handle corrective measures in misfired shots in underground coal mines.

NOTE: This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Two years coal mining experience underground, one year of the two years shall be handling and using explosives underground under the direction of a certified underground shot firer or appropriately related work experience approved by the Chief of the Division of Mines
- Hold a General Miner Certification, if required by law. Miners who have Virginia coal mining experience prior to January 1, 1996, and wish to obtain general miner certification must meet BCME requirement 4 VAC 25-20-255 A.1.2.3. or attend required general miner training.
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 85% on each element of the examination.

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
▪ Principles of Blasting (PB)	20
▪ Surface Storage (SS)	20
▪ Underground Storage (US)	20
▪ Underground Transportation (UT)	20
▪ First Aid (MM)	20
▪ Federal Regulations (not implemented)	
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR
- Mining Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- Underground Shot Firer Study Guide
- MSHA (Basic First Aid) Manual 3
- Mine Gases Packet

The above mentioned materials are available at the Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and the Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

*** Continuing education required. See BCME Requirements. (effective August 25, 2004)**

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